

Message Text

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70

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

L-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-01 INR-07

NSAE-00 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-03 PRS-01 /071 R

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R 281703Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

SECDEF

JCS

DIA

CNO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019628

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ MAAR, MPOL, SN

SUBJECT: SOVIET SHIPPING IN JOHORE STRAITS AND

SEMBAWANG SHIPYARD

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REFS: A. SINGAPORE 137 (NOTAL) B. SINGAPORE 17 (NOTAL)

1. OPENING SEMBAWANG SHIPYARD TO SOVIETS WOULD INCREASE USEFULNESS OF SINGAPORE TO THEM FURTHER BY ADDING TO REPAIR AND OVERHAUL FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO SOVIET FLEET UNITS AND MERCHANT SHIPPING IN BOTH PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS. IT COULD ENCOURAGE A MORE SIGNIFICANT SOVIET PRESENCE IN THE AREA AS WELL. FURTHER, IT WOULD ENHANCE SOVIET COLLECTION CAPABILITY AGAINST US AND OTHER ALLIED VESSELS IN SINGAPORE AREA. THIS IN TURN COULD COMPLICATE SCHEDULING OF VISITS AND REPAIRS OF USNAVY SHIPS.

2. WE CONCUR THAT MOMENT IS OPPORTUNE TO INITIATE DIALOGUE DIRECTLY WITH GOS ON SOVIET SHIPPING IN STRAITS OF JOHORE AND SEMBAWANG. SUCH A DIALOGUE WOULD GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERNS AND PREFERENCES WHILE GOS POLICY STILL IN FORMATIVE STAGES AND PERHAPS ENABLE US TO EXERT SOME FAVORABLE INFLUENCE. IT ALSO SHOULD GIVE US SOME LINE ON GOS THINKING.

3. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO APPROACH GOS AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO EXPRESS OUR GENERAL CONCERN AS OUTLINED PARA 2 ABOVE OVER APPARENT CHANGE OF GOS POLICY ON SOVIET REPAIRS AT SEMBAWANG AND OTHER SOVIET SHIPPING STRAITS OF JOHORE. WE CONCUR WITH SPECIFIC POSITIONS RECOMMENDED PARA 4 REF A. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD ESPECIALLY OBJECT TO THE USE OF SEMBAWANG SHIPYARD TO SERVICE ANY SOVIET NAVAL VESSELS OR AUXILIARIES. HOWEVER, SINCE WE ARE NOT PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO PUT SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL REPAIR WORK INTO SEMBAWANG TO MAKE UP FOR LOSS OF ANTICIPATED SOVIET BUSINESS, WE LEAVE TO EMBASSY'S DISCRETION WHETHER TO PRESS FOR COMPLETE BAN ON REPAIRS OF SOVIET MERCHANT SHIPPING AT SEMBAWANG. WHILE YOU SHOULD NOT RAISE THIS SUBJECT YOURSELF, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING WHAT GOS WOULD CONSIDER FAIR COMPENSATION FOR BARRING SOVIETS FROM SEMBAWANG SHOULD THEY RAISE SUBJECT. KISSINGER

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